

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 TRSE-00 PRS-01
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O R 192153Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4943
INFO USCINCO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 3375

FOR WADE MATTHEWS, ARA

E.O. 116552: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: FRASER HEARINGS

REF: (A) MATTHEWS LETTER TO LUBENSKY, JUNE 20, 1977,
(B) DATT IR - 6829-0042-77

1. WASHINGTON OFFICE LATIN AMERICAN (WOLA) EYEWITNESS
REPORTS ON AGUILARES OPERATION REFLECT MOST OF WHAT
WE HAVE HEARD BUT MUCH WE HAD NOT HEARD. CERTAINLY
MUCH IS EXAGGERATED. WE DID UNDERSTAND THAT SQUATTERS
HAD SOUGHT TO RENT LANDS AT PAISNAL BUT A RIDICULOUSLY
LOW PRICE BACKED WITH THREAT OF INVASION. ARMY DID FINALLY
MOVE IN AND ACCORDING REPORT MILGP COMMANDER HAD PICKED UP
THAT DAY, THEY PREPARED TWO ISREALI ARAVA AIRCRAFT, ONE
WITH SPECIAL ARMAMENT AND LOUD SPEAKERS AND THE OTHER
AS MEDICAL EVACUATION UNIT. THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN
QTE THOUSANDS OF TROOPS UNQTE (REF B) CONSIDERING TOTAL UNIFORMED
PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY, AND SALVADORAN MILITARY HAS NO OPERAT-
IONAL TANKS. WE HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO VERIFY
REPORT OF SIX POSSIBLE INSURGENTS AND TWO POLICE KILLED, AND
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OF THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE SACRISTAN IN THE BELL TOWER.
ALSO THERE WERE PRIESTS PICKED UP AND FOREIGN PRIESTS WERE
DEPORTED. A SALVADORAN PRIEST WAS TORTURED (SEE EMBTEL 2516)
AND PROBABLY MANY PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR QUESTIONING
OR ON QTE SUSPICION UNQTE. REPORTS OF DISCOVERY OF
AN FPL ARMS CACHE, MONEY, PROPAGANDA AND RECORDS
ARE ALSO FAIRLY WELL CONFIRMED, BUT WE SIMPLY HAVE NOT

HEARD RELNABEL REPORTS OF MASS KILLINGS AT AGUILARES,
NOR OF EXTENSIVE PLUNDERING AND STEALING. NOR CAN WE DENY
THIS MAY HAVE OCCURRED SINCE INDEED AGUILARES WAS SEALED
OFF FOR SEVERAL DAYS DURING THE OPERATION.

2. WE JUST OBTAINED A COPY OF A REPORT FROM THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE DATED JUNE 1,
1977, WRITTEN BY RICHARD SCOBIE AND JOHN MCAWARD. WE
ASSUME DEPARTMENT ALSO HAS COPY. AGAIN WE HAD
CONFIRMATION OF MUCH DESCRIBED ABOUT FEBRUARY 28 AFFAIR
IN PLAZA LIBERTAD, BUT HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF REPORTS
ON SERIES EVENTS DESCRIBED AS HAVING OCCURRED AR OR NEAR (1.5 KM
AWAY) RELOJ DE FLORES. IT IS LIKELY SOME OF INFORMATION
IN REPORT WAS PICKED UP THROUGH A RELIABLE EMBASSY
SOURCE WITH CONTACTS AMONG EXTREME LEFT AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
OR EX-STUDENTS. IT IS SUGGESTED MATTHEWS DISCUSS
THIS REPORT WITH WILLIAM WALKER AND AMBASSADOR LOZANO WHO
WILL BE IN WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, ESPECIALLY
IN VIEW FOLLOWING PASSAGE IN THE REPORT: QTE DURING OUR
VISIT WE MET WITH AMBASSADOR LOZANO AND THE EMBASSY'S
POLITICAL OFFICER, WILLIAM WALKER. BOTH WERE IN AGREEMENT
WITH OUR FINDINGS TO DATE AND SHARE OUR CONCERNS
REGARDING THE EXTREME SERIOUSNESS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN EL SALVADOR AT THIS TIME. THEY ENCOURAGED
AND SUPPORTED US IN OUR INVESTIGATION UNQTE.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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